

California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program (CNG EAAP)

Hosted by: The California Student Aid Commission (Commission) "Making Education Beyond High School Financially Accessible To All Californians"

Presented by: Katrina Beck, Program Coordinator





Background

California Education Code (CEC) Sections 69999.10 - 69999.30

California Code of Regulations (CCR) subsection 30730 - 30738

The California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program (CNG EAAP) is a State-funded grant designed as an educational incentive to improve skills, competencies, and abilities for up to 1,000 service members (as the budget allows) who remain active in the National Guard, the State Military Reserve, or the Naval Militia. This grant is not based on financial need. We do not use EFC to determine the award amount.

Through an Interagency Agreement, the California National Guard (CNG) gave the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) the authority to process and disburse the award checks.

Academic Year (AY) goes from July 1 to June 30 and includes any classes that start during that timeframe.





Purpose of Training

Today's training will provide instructions and procedures to successfully administer the program through the WebGrants System.

This includes instructions regarding

- Cost of Attendance
- Enrollment verification (number of units attending)
- Payment disbursement





Eligibility Requirements

The CNG EAAP coordinator verifies that the service member meets certain eligibility requirements before we accept the service member into the CNG EAAP.

You will need to verify that the student meets the following requirements:

- The CNG EAAP cannot be used to obtain a certificate, degree, or diploma currently held.
- Participants must maintain a minimum of a 2.0 cumulative grade point average (GPA).

The cumulative GPA is verified when the participants renew for the following academic year before enrollment information can be entered.

We do not require that a student maintain SAP to receive a CNG EAAP award check. Renewal students do not have to complete a FAFSA.





Eligibility Requirements

- Participants must maintain enrollment in a minimum of three (3) academic units per term at a qualifying institution.
- •Participants cannot receive a Cal Grant award check in the same academic year they receive a CNG EAAP award check.
- The CNG EAAP does not prohibit students from receiving other awards/grants/scholarships (other than the Cal Grant), but students are advised that those other awards/grants/scholarships may not allow the student to receive them and the CNG EAAP. For example, the Middle Class Scholarship (MCS) does not allow students to receive the CNG EAAP and the MCS. The institution must determine if the student can receive school grants (like the State University Grant) and the CNG EAAP simultaneously based on the rules of the school grants. If the student can receive both, the amount paid by the grant must be subtracted from the original Cost of Attendance.





Award Amounts

The maximum award amount at a California Community College is the equivalent of a Cal Grant B per academic year.

The award amount for the 2017-18 academic year is

- \$1,672 per academic year
- \$836 per semester
- \$557 per quarter

The maximum award amount for at a California State University is the equivalent of the Cal Grant A amount for the CSU per academic year.

The award amount for the 2016-17 academic year is

- \$5,742 per academic year
- \$2,871 per semester or \$1,914 per quarter

The maximum award amounts for the University of California and California private institutions are equal to the Cal Grant A award amounts for the UC per an academic year.

The award amount for the 2016-17 academic year is

- \$12,630 per academic year
- \$6,315 per semester or \$4,210 per quarter



These amounts are subject to change if budgetary revisions are made.



Award Amounts cont.

Graduate study students can receive an additional stipend of up to \$500 per AY.

The \$500 for graduate studies does not come separately but is added on to the initial maximum award amount per year to create a higher maximum award amount.

For example, someone attending at UC Davis would be eligible for up to \$13,130 per AY or a maximum of \$6,565per semester or \$4,376 per quarter.





Cost of Attendance

Cost of Attendance (COA) refers to the student budget at the qualifying institution for the participant to include tuition, fees, housing, food, books, transportation and personal expenses for the year. It may also include an allowance for the rental or purchase of a computer, child care or other dependent care costs and additional expenses for students with disabilities not already covered. COA is specific to each term (quarter or semester). Cost of Attendance should be adjusted for any waiver of, or reduction in, tuition and fees (such as the BOG waiver, the UC Blue and Gold Opportunity plan, or, if the student is allowed by the institution to receive both, the State University Grant).

VEB means any federal educational benefits for veterans. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Chapter 31, the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Program;
- Chapter 1607, the Reserve Educational Assistance (REAP) Program;
- Chapter 32, the Post-Vietnam Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP);
- Chapter 1606, the Montgomery GI Bill for Selected Reserve (MG-SR);
- Chapter 30, the Montgomery GI Bill for Active Duty (MG-AD);
- Chapter 35, the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (DEA);
- Chapter 33, the Post-9/11 GI Bill and the "Yellow Ribbon Program";
- The Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship; and
- Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA)





Calculating Award Amounts

A participant's award amount equals the term-specific Cost of Attendance (COA) minus any federal educational benefits for veteran's (VEB), up to the maximum amount allowed by the State's Annual Budget Act.

The CNG EAAP is meant to pay after other benefits, including federal educational benefits for veterans (VEB).

There is some misunderstanding that all State benefits pay out before Post 9/11 benefits. United States Code, Title 38, Part III, Sec. 3313 (38 USC Sec.3313) states that a student receiving the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill (also known as Ch. 33) receives their Post-9/11 benefits only after subtracting "any scholarship, or other Federal, State, institutional, or employer-based aid or assistance ...that is provided directly to the institution and specifically designated for the sole purpose of defraying tuition and fees."

The CNG EAAP payments are "to be used toward education related expenses" and the award checks are payable to the student, which allows the CNG EAAP to pay out after VEB.





Other Financial Aid

The CNG EAAP is not based on financial need.

CNG EAAP participants are informed that, if they are receiving benefits based on financial need, receiving the CNG EAAP could cause a reduction in their eligibility for those financial need-based awards. They are advised to check with their financial aid counselor to see if there will be a conflict.

Student loans are not to be taken into consideration when awarding or disbursing the CNG EAAP. Loans should not be included in the COA. One of the purposes of the CNG EAAP is to help students avoid having to take out loans or to repay loans they had to take out for the semester. The student has the option of applying any CNG EAAP funds to student loans, but it can be used to cover other areas of the student's COA, such as books, housing, or transportation.

• Cost of Attendance should be adjusted for any waiver of, or reduction in, tuition and fees (such as the BOG waiver, the UC Blue and Gold Opportunity plan, or, if the student is allowed by the institution to receive both, the State University Grant).





Award Checks

Award checks are mailed to the institution for disbursement so that the institution can verify at the time of disbursement that: the student is still attending a minimum of 3 units, the student is not receiving any Cal Grant award checks, and the award amount is still accurate.

This also allows the institution to determine if receiving the CNG EAAP impacts any financial-need based programs that would need to be adjusted or returned.



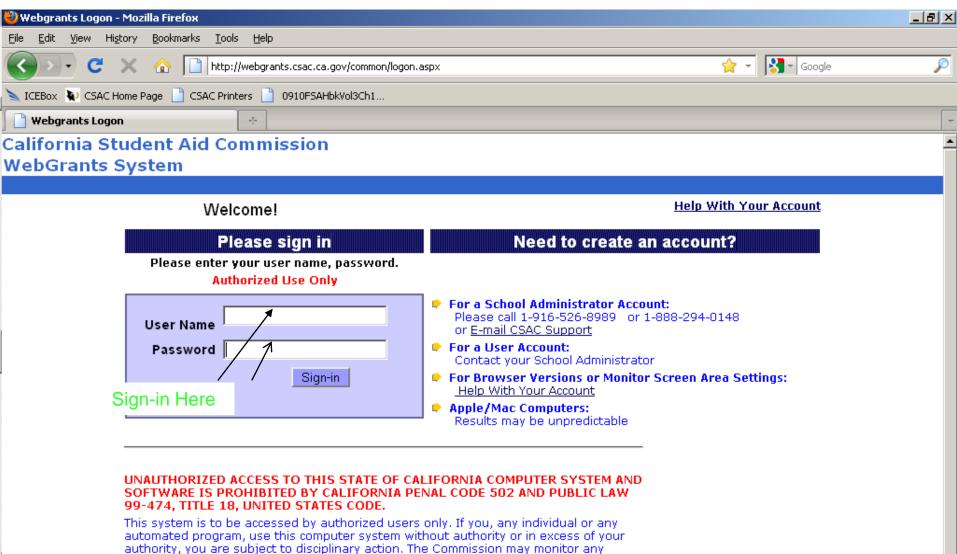


Getting Started with WebGrants

Log on to:

http://webgrants.csac.ca.gov/common/logon.aspx





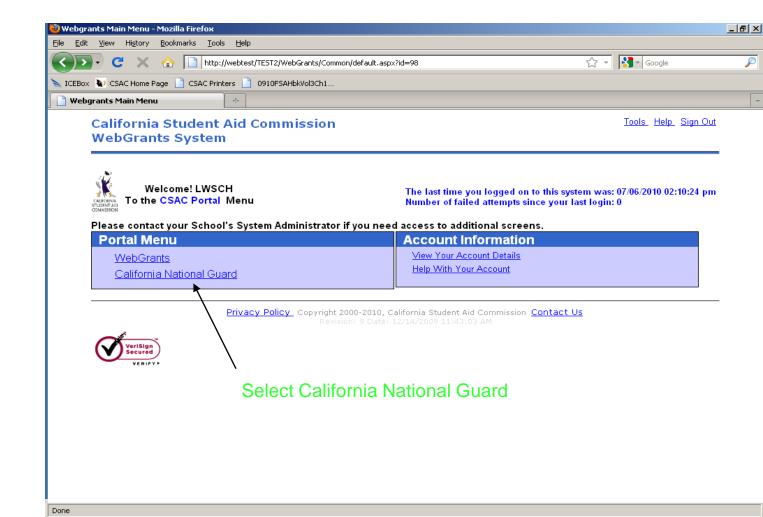
This system is to be accessed by authorized users only. If you, any individual or any automated program, use this computer system without authority or in excess of your authority, you are subject to disciplinary action. The Commission may monitor any activity or communication on the system and retrieve any information stored within the system. By accessing and using this computer, you are consenting to such monitoring and information retrieval for law enforcement and other purposes.



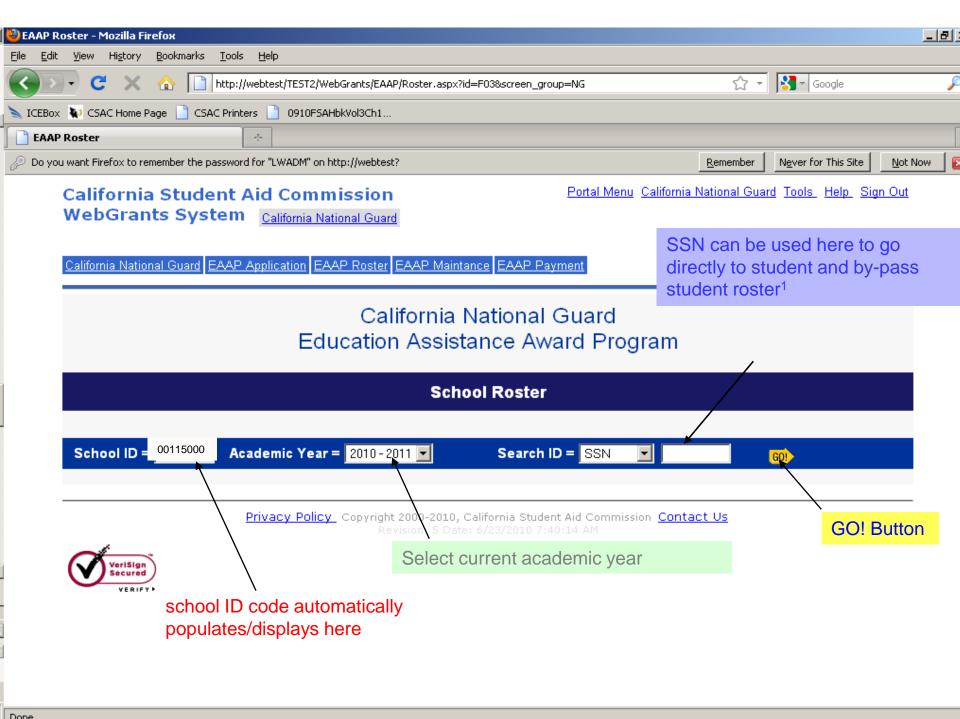


Getting Started-Accessing EAAP

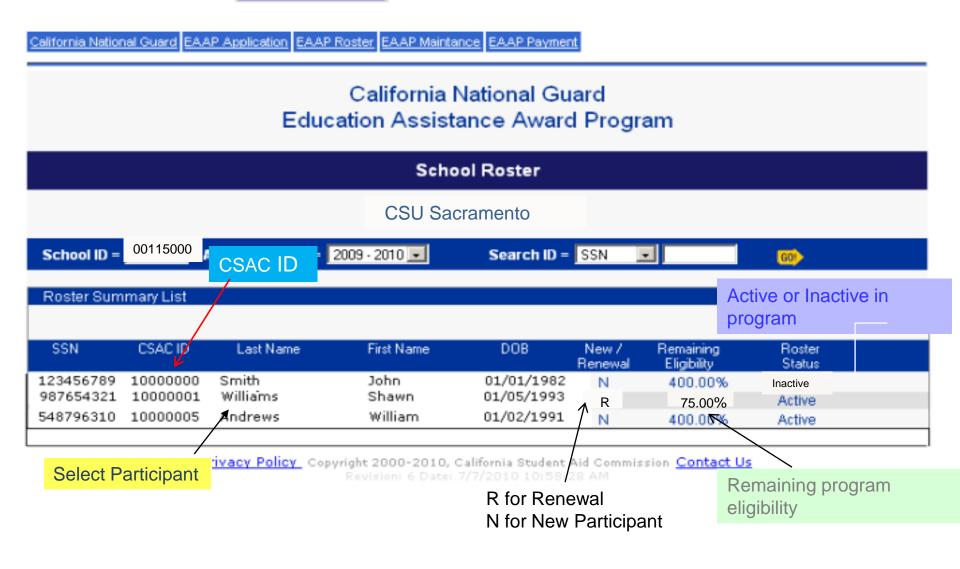
As illustrated below, the user will be directed to the Portal Menu Screen. Select the <u>California National Guard</u> link.







California Student Aid Commission WebGrants System California National Guard

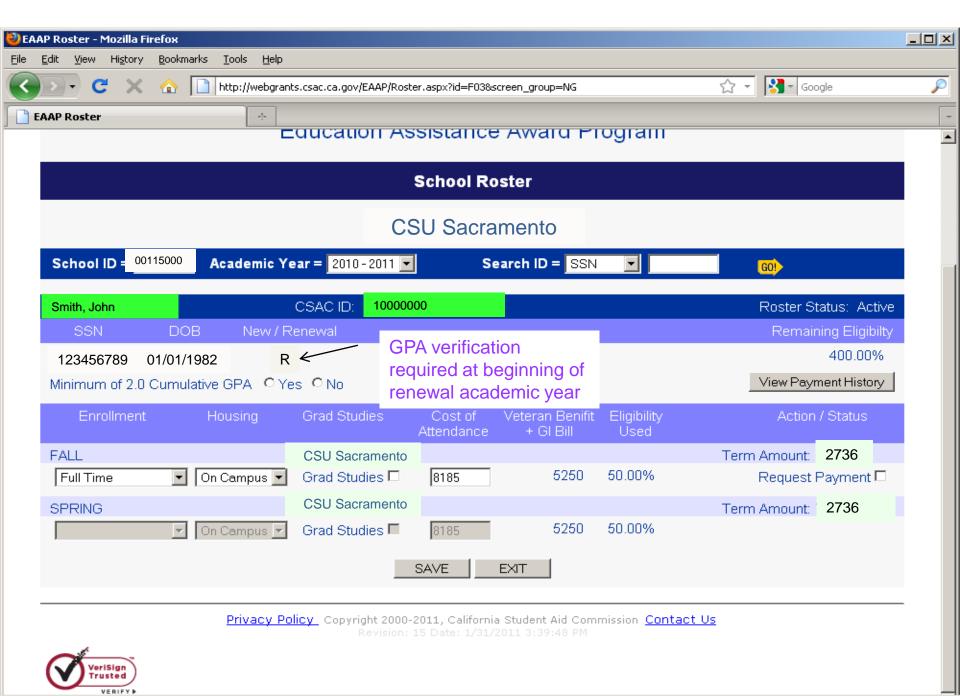


Notes for previous slide

This slide lists remaining eligibility for each participant. Each participant starts out with 4 full-time years worth of eligibility, or 400 percent. A person who has 400 percent eligibility has not been issued any award checks.

If a participant has less than 100 percent eligibility remaining, then they have less than one full-time year's worth of eligibility remaining.

If a participant is Inactive, they are either on a Hold for the academic year pending additional information or have been withdrawn from the program.



🏙 Start 📗















Notes for previous slide

Participants must submit renewal paperwork to indicate that they will continue in the program for the following academic year. These become available at https://calguard.ca.gov/education/ on January 15 and must be submitted by June 1 to the CNG EAAP Coordinator at the California National Guard Headquarters.

Before we can release any award checks for the new academic year, the renewal student's Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) must be verified to meet the requirement of being a 2.0 or greater as of the last term attended for the previous academic year.

If a student falls below the required 2.0 in the fall term but raises their grades during the spring term back up to the 2.0, they would be qualified to continue in the CNG EAAP.

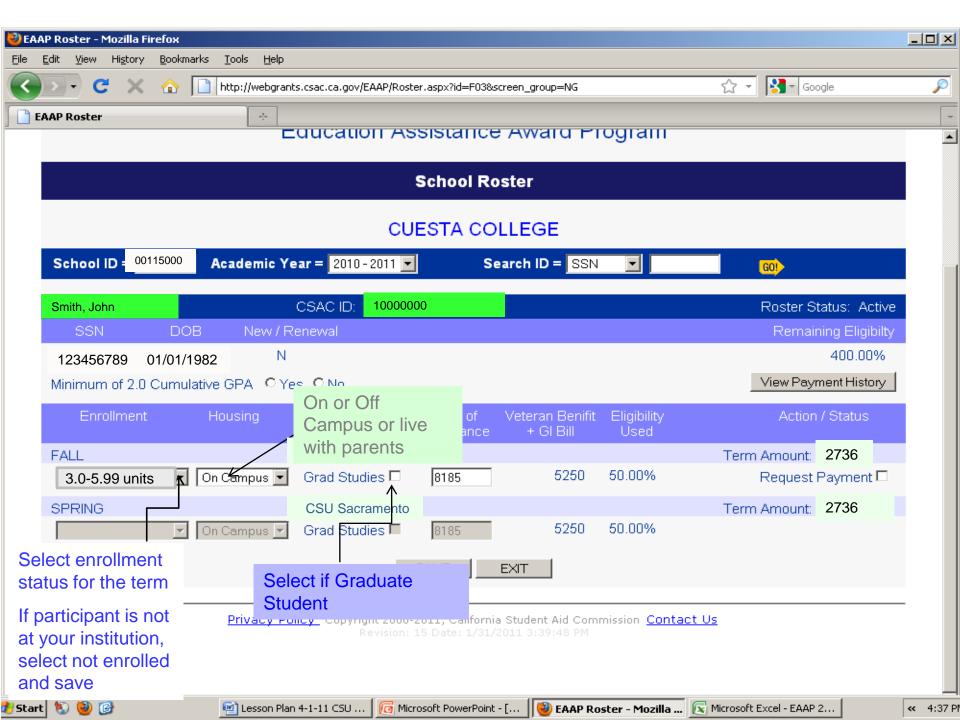


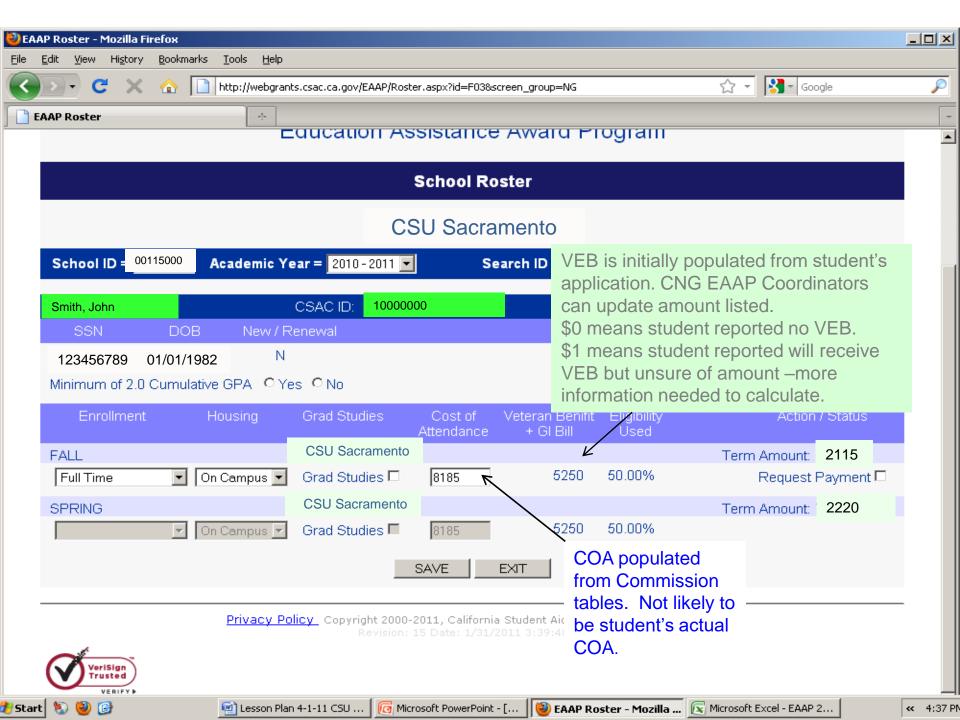
Enrollment Data

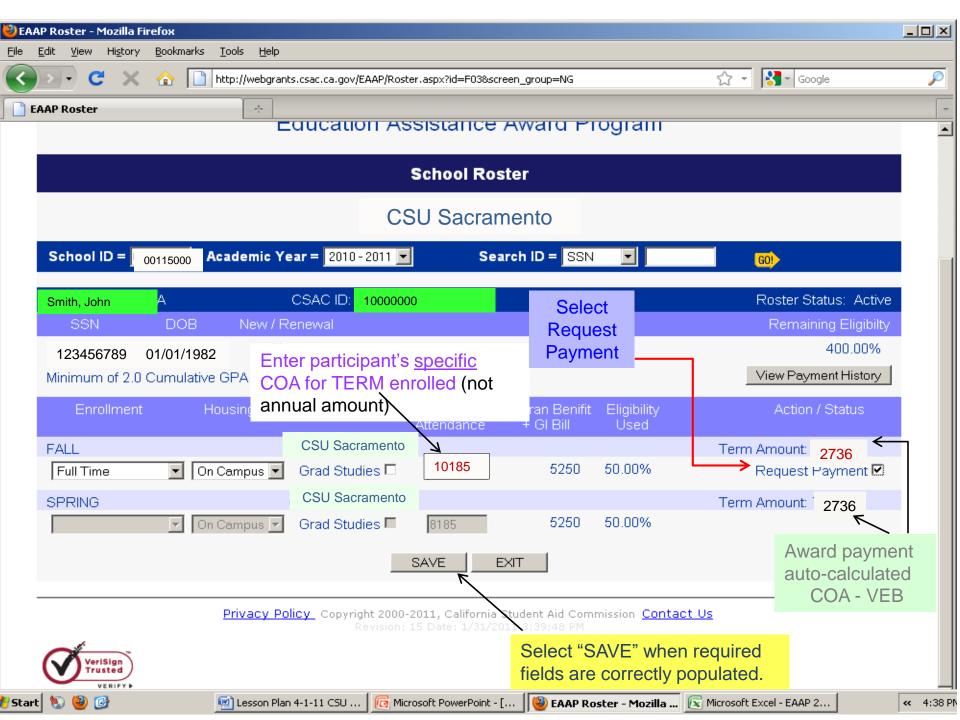
Each term, the institution will enter or update:

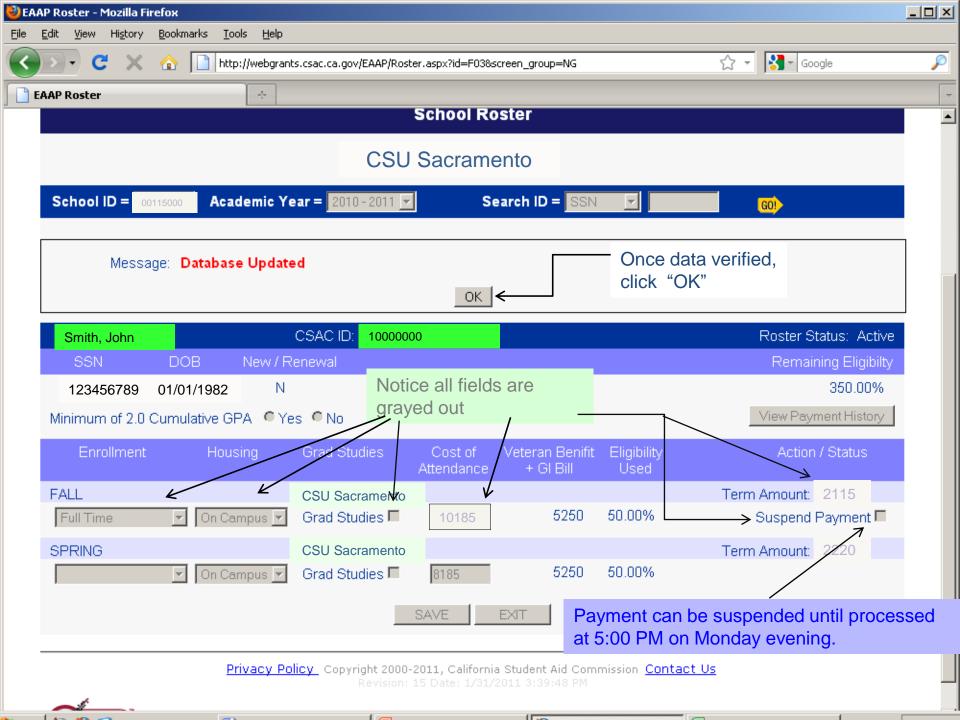
- the student's enrollment status
 - 12+ units
 - 9.0-11.99 units
 - 6.0-8.99 units
 - 3.0-5.99 units
 - Less than 3 units
 - Not enrolled
- the student's housing status
 - On Campus
 - Off Campus
 - With Parents
- whether the student is in graduate studies or higher (community colleges are unable to make this selection)
- the student's <u>term-specific</u> Cost of Attendance (COA) for the participant.

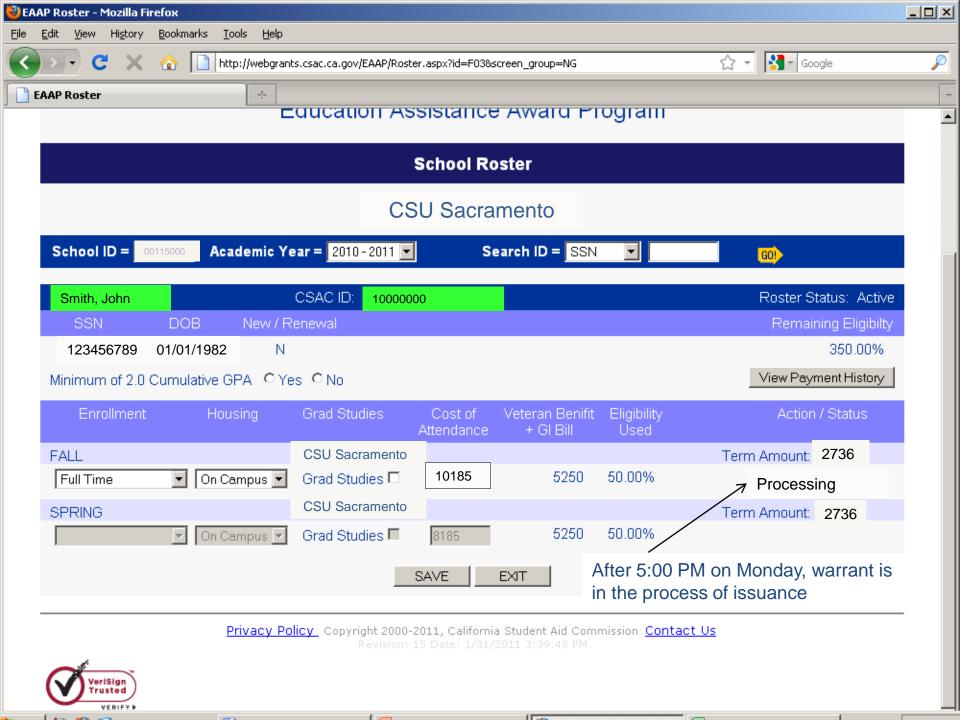














EAAP Disbursements

After the Commission receives the award checks from the State Controller's Office, the Commission will send the award checks to the institution along with a copy of the Disbursement Roster Guidelines and a Disbursement Roster.

Once the check is mailed, the student's Action/Status in Web Grants that previously read "**Processing**" will be changed to show the "**Payment Disbursed**" box. This box should not be checked until the award check has been received at the institution and handed over to the student.

Once the institution has received the CNG EAAP award checks, contact the participants to inform them that their check is ready for pick up.¹ If your institution has a special processing policy, let the student know how long the processing time will take.



¹If you do not hear back from the participant after a month, e-mail me and I will contact the participant and let you know whether the participant will be coming in to pick up the check or if the check should be sent back to the Commission.



Disbursing an EAAP Payment, cont.

Before disbursing the payment to the participant, the institution must verify that the participant has not received a Cal Grant payment and is currently enrolled in a minimum of 3 units (or, if the term has finished, the participant must have completed the term with a minimum of 3 units).

If the participant attends a spring term from January to May but ceases to be an active member in April, that participant is not eligible for the spring award check whether they received the award check in February or in May.

If there are changes to the Cost of Attendance but <u>the award</u> amount for the term is not affected by these changes, the payment is **released to the student**.

Once the payment has been disbursed, you will need to complete and return the disbursement roster that was attached to the check. The best way to do this is to scan and e-mail them to the e-mail address at the end of this presentation.

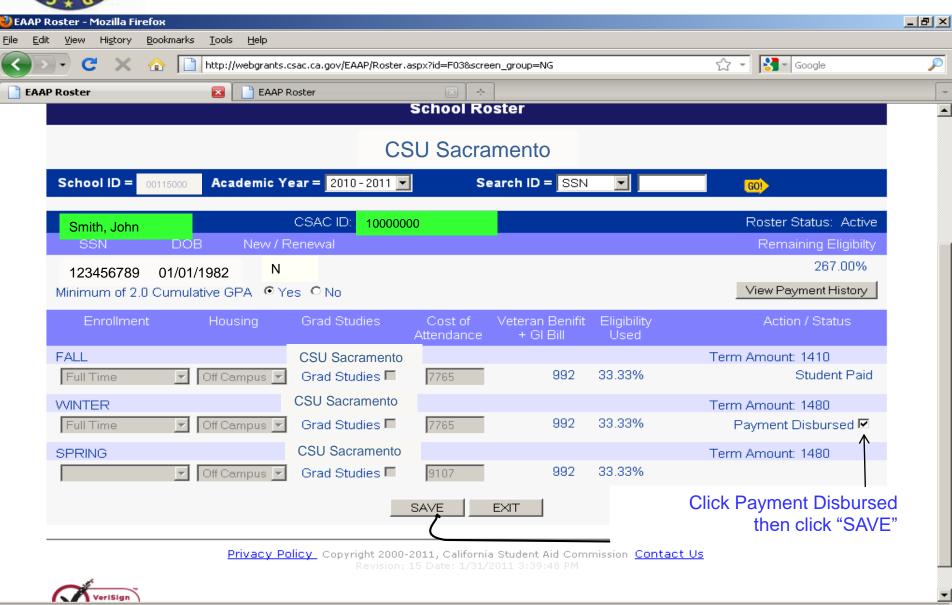




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Disbursing Payments (Quarter Term

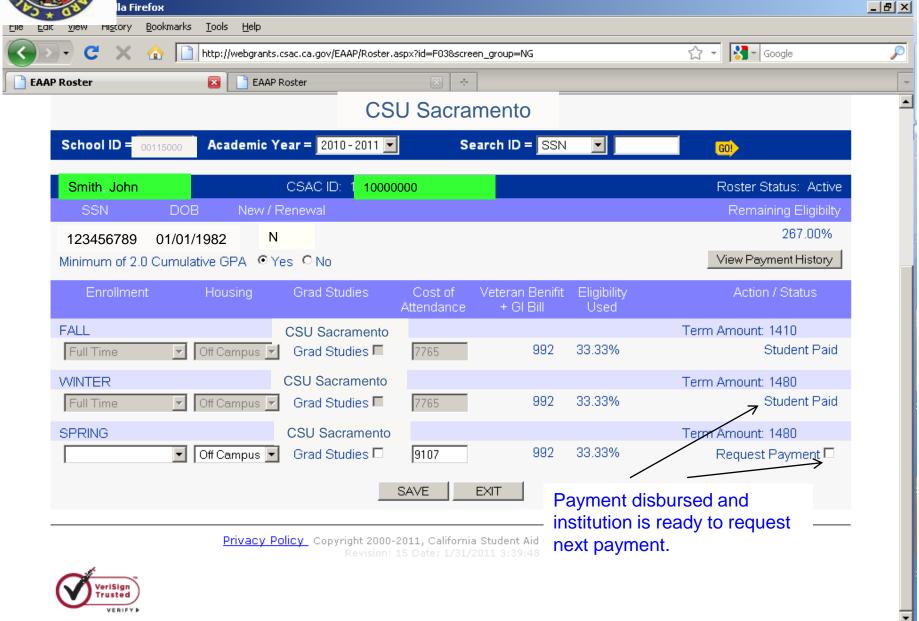
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Disbursing Payments





Returning an EAAP Award Check

If the payment/check needs to be returned, follow the instructions on the disbursement guidelines and complete the disbursement roster.

Do not request the next term's payment until the prior term's payment has been disbursed to the student or enrollment status has been updated to show a leave of absence.

If a school requests the next payment while another payment for the same academic year is still processing, it creates system problems and delays future payments/checks. You should not be allowed to request the next term's award check until the open one has been closed, but WG sometimes allows this to happen.



Why do I need to return the disbursement roster and mark the check as disbursed in WebGrants? Isn't doing one enough?

- While these seem like the same step, they have two different purposes.
- We need the disbursement roster returned to us for auditing purposes. The form has space for you, the institution contact, to send us updated information regarding the Cost of Attendance, the VEB, and enrollment status. It also provides us useful information regarding graduate studies and summer term enrollment.
 - Marking the check as disbursed in WebGrants opens up the next term. Then, the enrollment information can be entered and that payment requested for that term.

Generally, I will contact you a month after the check has been mailed to verify it has been received and disbursed to the student. This is to ensure you are not having problems contacting the student and that the check has not been misdirected or lost. If it is lost, we are able to request a stop payment earlier rather than delaying payments further.



Contact Information You send an e-mail to the CNG EAAP Coordinators at

ng.ca.caarng.list.cn6-eaap-mailbox-access@mail.mil

Or by phone Katrina Beck

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